

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 IO-13 NSC-05 /078 W
-----260816 051237 /11

R 251844Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1884
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1048

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH RESERVATION ON EWG HANDLING OF NATO
FLEXIBILITY STUDIES

REF: (A) USNATO 998 DTG 241518Z FEB 77, (B) USNATO 891
DTG 161830Z FEB 77, (C) USNATO 926 DTG 181610Z FEB 77,
(D) STATE 32217 DTG 120015Z FEB 77

SUMMARY: TURKISH DEFENSE COUNSELLOR TOPUR'S LETTER (REF A)
ATTEMPTS TO CLARIFY THE GOT RESERVATION ON THE EWG'S HANDLING
OF THE NATO FLEXIBILITY STUDIES AND SUGGESTS THAT TURKEY WILL
AVOID RESERVATIONS ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS DEALING WITH
INFRASTRUCTURE. ACTION REQUESTED. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY.

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1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS DURING THE FEBRUARY 14 EWG MEETING
(PARA 3 OF REF B), AND AS PROMISED BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR KIRCA
DURING HIS CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 16 (PARA 4
OF REF C), THE TURKISH DELEGATION HAS PROVIDED A MORE
DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ITS RESERVATION ON THE NATO
FLEXIBILITY STUDIES. TURKISH DEFENSE COUNSELOR TOPUR
OUTLINED TURKISH THINKING IN A LETTER TO DSYG PANS, A,
DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1977, COPIES OF WHICH WERE SENT TO
ALL EWG MEMBERS (TEXT PROVIDED REF A).

2. TOPUR'S LETTER APPEARS TO US TO DEFINE THE TURKISH POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

--TURKEY WILL NO LONGER OBJECT TO WORK PROCEEDING NORMALLY ON THE FLEXIBILITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO OTHER THAN THE SOUTHERN REGION.

--WITH REFERENCE TO THE SOUTHERN REGION, TURKEY WILL OBJECT TO FURTHER WORK ON SME FORTY-ONE FLEXIBILITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS BECAUSE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE "REGIONAL" AND INVOLVE GREECE.

--THIS TURKISH RESERVATION WILL BE LIFTED IF AND WHEN GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS ARE SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED.

--INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED ITEMS ARE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE TURKISH RESERVATION. THESE SHOULD BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT "INTERIM AGREEMENT" ON INFRASTRUCTURE, OR ANY SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT REPLACE IT.

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TURKS HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION FLEXIBILITY STUDY WHICH ARE "REGIONAL" IN NATURE, AND THAT THE LIST THEY HAVE NOW PROVIDED CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGED MATERIALLY DURING PREPARATION. FOR OUR OWN PART, WE HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY DETERMINING HOW GREECE WOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MANY OF THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS CITED IN TOPUR'S LETTER. BUT THIS POINT ASIDE, WE BELIEVE ALLIES WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COUNTER (EVEN SHOULD THEY WISH TO DO SO) THE REINTEGRATED TURKISH CONTENTION THAT GREEK REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER WORK ON "REGIONAL" RECOMMENDATIONS WHILE THE STATUS OF GREECE IN NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE REMAINS AMBIGUOUS. BY REDUCING THEIR RESERVATION ON FURTHER WORK TO THESE NARROWER GROUNDS, TURKEY HAS STAKED OUT A MUCH MORE SENSIBLE AND DEFENSIBLE POSITION THAN THE ONE IT EARLIER TOOK: THAT NO FURTHER WORK SHOULD PROCEED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS RELEVANT TO ANY REGION UNTIL THE STATUS OF GREECE IS CLARIFIED.

4. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, EWG REMANDING OF FLEXIBILITY STUDIES RECOMMENDATIONS TO APPROPRIATE NATO BODIES IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THESE BODIES TO PROCEED WITH THEIR WORK ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECOMMENDATION THAT MORE NATIONAL TRAINING EXERCISES BE INTEGRATED INTO NATO EXERCISES (S-25) AND THAT NICSMA EXPEDITE THE PILOT SECURE VOICE PROJECT (S-4A)

WILL BE ACTED UPON WITHOUT ANY EWG INITIATIVE. THE EFFECT OF THE PRESENT TURKISH RESERVATION IS TO PROHIBIT THE EWG FROM CALLING FOR PROGRESS REPORTS ON THESE SELECTED "REGIONAL" RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS INHERENT WEAKNESS IN THE TURKISH POSITION WITH ASYG MUMFORD. HE INTENDS DURING THE NEXT EWG MEETING (PROBABLY IN MID-MARCH AFTER EXERCISE WINTEX 77 IS COMPLETED) TO ACCEDE TO THE TURKISH REQUEST WITHOUT STATING THAT HE IS DOING SO BECAUSE THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THE TURKISH RESERVATION WILL BE MINIMAL.
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6. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT MUMFORD'S PLAN. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO01048
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770298/baaabbzq.tel
Line Count: 131
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3473407
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH RESERVATION ON EWG HANDLING OF NATO FLEXIBILITY STUDIES
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, TU
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e95b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009